



Rocky Mountain National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release
Kyle Patterson/David Eaker 970-586-1363

Search Enters Fifth Day for Missing Park Ranger

New Information May Assist Searchers

Rocky Mountain National Park staff and assisting volunteer organizations continue their search today for a park ranger that was last seen by his co-workers at 11 a.m. at the Chapin Pass Trailhead off Old Fall River Road on Friday, July 29. Jeff Christensen was planning a backcountry patrol to the Lawn Lake Trailhead that evening. He did not contact park dispatch that evening and did not arrive for his shift on Saturday.

Due to a Denver Post article by George Merritt the park has received information that a couple from Oklahoma saw Jeff in the Chiquita area between noon and 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 29. The couple confirmed that it was Jeff from a photograph that they saw and by his name tag. The park investigator considered the couple's information credible. The couple also said they saw other parties in the area whom we are now trying to locate.

The first group was a white couple in their early forties, a very fit man who may have a heavy dark beard and the female was slim and small with a brown pony-tail. They were reported to live in Greeley and were staying in a cabin in Glen Haven. Another party is a tall, slim, white man who is believed to be a political science professor. Another group included two men from Estes Park believed to be in their sixties. The last group was a family consisting of a mother, father, teenage daughter and son.

Park officials are asking for help from visitors who might have seen Jeff in the Mummy Range area on Friday or Saturday to contact the park at **(970) 586-1204**.

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Using the newly disclosed information, approximately 100 searchers will continue to intensify their efforts today in high probability areas in the Mummy Range. Five helicopters are now committed to the search along with three dog teams from Larimer County Search and Rescue and two from Front Range Rescue Dogs. A National Park Service Incident Management Team from the Intermountain Region is now in the park to coordinate search efforts.

Today's search area covers roughly 26 square miles with extreme elevation. Much of this expanded search area will be covered using helicopters. The Mummy Range is a remote, high altitude, rugged area which includes Mount Chapin, Mount Chiquita, Ypsilon Mountain and Desolation Peaks. There are few designated trails in the area and hiking mainly occurs cross country.

Jeff is 31-years-old and is an experienced mountaineer. He is extremely fit and capable of covering long distances in a short period of time. Although Jeff was not intending to spend the night he had a backpack with a variety of gear. He also had a park radio with him, however, in some drainages radio coverage is spotty or his battery could have run out. This is his fourth season as a park ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. Jeff is an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and has worked ski patrol at Winter Park for the past seven years. His hometown is Fraser, Colorado.

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